Introduction

Fate is the idea that

1.

In the very start of the play the prologue the narrator sets the scene then immediately informs the audience to the ending the play. ‘A pair of star-crossed lovers take their life;/ Whose misadventured piteous overthrows/ Doth with their death bury their parents’ strife./ The fearful passage of their death-marked love.’ This removes the surprise from the ending of the play and turns the intrigue to why these people would commit suicide. This is also the first instance of fate as a theme in the play where it uses the metaphor of ‘star-crossed’ and it informs us of the protagonist's destiny right away. This quote can be interpreted in two main ways. The first being that the characters fate were already decided and always unchangeable and that is how it is always will be regardless of the characters actions. This is due to language such as ‘deathmarked’ and ‘star-crossed’. It can also be interpreted that this is simply the narrators remark who is separate from the play itself and the narrator knows the what the characters actions will be and the result of their actions in a meta-story sense but not in a lack of freewill or unchangeable fate sense. Though this may be the case, it does seem that in the story that fate is used as it foreshadowed at many times in the play that fate did have an overwhelming impact on what happened the protagonist's.

2.

The second idea of fate

3.

The third idea of fate appears near the end of the play when romeo hears of Juliet’s death, he says something referencing the start of the prologue. ‘Is it e’en so?—Then I deny you, stars!—/ Thou knowest my lodging. Get me ink and paper,/ And hire post-horses. I will hence tonight.’ In this quote romeo states clearly that he will defy his fate and will somehow find a way to live together with Juliet. This is ironic as we, the audience, knows that Juliet is not really dead and just under the effects of Friar Lawrence’s potion. This may give us hope that romeo may really defy his fate set out in the prologue as that is literally what he says he will do. This idea that freewill governs the outcomes of an individual is the polar opposite of the initial idea in the beginning of the play. However even after not accepting it he is still be subjected to his fate and the two do end there own lives. ‘Thy drugs are quick. Thus with a kiss I die.’ and ‘This is thy sheath. There rust, and let me die.’. This further reinforces the idea that fate was the factor in deciding the deaths of Romeo and Juliet as even when trying the exercise his freewill and shatter his fate he is unsuccessful and succumbs.

conclusion